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MUST KEEP OLD MASSIVE

Local Chamber of Commerce Drafts Letter to Geographic Board in Regard to Change in Name of Well Known Mountain

ACTION IS ARBITRARY

The Leadville Chamber of Commerce, sharing the feeling of other civic organizations of this city and section, yesterday addressed a lengthy letter to C. Hart Merriam, chairman of the United States Geographic Board, at Washington, urging that the action of the latter body in giving the name "Gannett Peak" to the highest point of Mount Massive be rescinded.

It is doubtful if at any time in recent years the community has been so united in protest against any one proposition as it is today against the "arbitrary, unwarranted and altogether uncalled-for" change in the name of Colorado's highest mountain peak.

The attention of local citizens to the change was called by the protest voiced at a recent meeting of the Colorado Mountain club, in Denver. So universal has the protest become that it is believed the 1922 geographic survey will show the old name restored to the entire mountain.

Following is a copy of the letter sent Chairman Merriam of the Geographic board by the Chamber of Commerce yesterday:

"The attention of the Leadville Chamber of Commerce has been called to certain news dispatches published in the papers in which it is stated that in the 1921 edition of the Geographic Survey map of the Leadville district the name of 'Gannett Peak' has been substituted for that of Massive in designating the highest point of this particular mountain.

"We have not as yet seen the map referred to, but are assuming that the statement as contained in the newspapers is correct, and accordingly we desire to enter our protest against this arbitrary, unwarranted and altogether uncalled for change in the name of Colorado's highest mountain peak.

"You are reminded that it was Professor Gannett himself who originally gave this mountain the name of Massive. Concerning the circumstances as to how this particular name happened to be used, he writes: 'The mountain named itself; its broad, heavy outline suggests the name at once.'

"In the present instance, we have no doubt but that your body is actuated by the very laudable motive of conferring an honor upon Prof. Gannett, but may we ask, has it occurred to you that you are really undoing his own work? Massive was the name that his scholarly mind bestowed upon this noble piece of God's handiwork. And this name was and is entirely appropriate, for this enormous granite uplift is all that the word implies—massive in every sense of the term.

"We feel that this name fits this huge mountain perfectly, and for the past forty-nine years it has been universally used. Once during this time, in 1901, an attempt was made to change it to that of Mount McKinley, but this failed, and Gannett himself went on record as opposed to any meddling in this regard. He was satisfied that the best name had been chosen, and judging from the statements he made at that time, we are firmly convinced that he would not countenance the attempt now made to capitalize his own name. Therefore, in justice to the memory of Professor Gannett and his labors, we ask that his expressed wishes in this regard be honored and respected.

"Furthermore, we who live in the eternal shadows of this lofty mountain peak have within our breasts a certain innate feeling and affection that is unknown to those who dwell beyond our borders; this is exclusively ours, and no governmental board or bureau can take it from us. Because of this, we have certain inherent rights in the premises that cannot be arbitrarily disregarded. In the present case, however, your body has not consulted the wishes or desires of those who are primarily concerned. And for such summary action we desire to enter our earnest protest.

"Local and state sentiment has become firmly attached to the name Mount Massive, and this attachment and association is very near and dear to the people of Colorado, and especially to Leadville, over which this mountain towers. We have had it now for a long time, almost a half a century, and the only a name, it has in reality become a part of our very life and daily existence; it means more to us here than it can possibly mean to you or anyone else, and we wish to keep and retain it and pass it on to other generations as it has been kept and passed on to us of today. And we wish that this may be done without outside interference and the confusion that necessarily results therefrom, because in any case this old mountain will always be

(Continued on page 2—col. 1)